

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have managed to have a good Christmas break, despite the restrictions that have been in place.

Sadly, we end 2020 with disappointing news from the government. Schools in Havering will not be able to reopen for all children at the start of the spring term in order to help contain the community transmission of COVID-19, which is very high in Havering at the current time. **Branfil Primary School will therefore be closed for the majority of children from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until the government decides that we can reopen.** We will provide remote education during this period.

We will only be open for children of critical workers and children defined as vulnerable, **where it is not possible for these children to learn at home.** Critical workers are defined in the following document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>. If it is possible for your child to learn at home then please do so in order to reduce the risk to staff and children in school. **If all adults in your household are critical workers, meaning that your child needs to attend school during this period, you must send an email to your child's year group email address by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January,** informing us of the following so we can plan accordingly:

- Child's name
- Parents'/carers' jobs
- Days when your child will need to be in school between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**If your child is defined as vulnerable, you must also send an email to your child's year group email address, by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, to inform us whether your child will be attending school.**

Children who need to attend school will complete the same learning as those accessing remote learning at home. Teachers will deliver remote learning for all children, through Google Classroom, and those children in school will be supervised by support staff to complete this work.

As you will be aware from my letter send before the holiday, Havering Council has asked all school staff to take a COVID-19 test, on 30<sup>th</sup> December or 2<sup>nd</sup> January, in order to identify anyone who has contracted COVID-19 over the Christmas period. This could result in members of staff needing to self-isolate for the start of term if they received a positive result. We will collate the test results on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, plus the emails from critical workers, and parents/carers of children defined as vulnerable, who would like their children to attend school, in order to plan appropriate provision for all of our pupils. **I will send a letter as soon as possible on the afternoon on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to inform you of our plans – please do not contact the school office for information prior to receiving this letter.**

We will continue to provide free school meals or food parcels for eligible pupils who are not attending school at the start of term – details to follow.

Abacus, our before and after school club, has asked me to inform you that they will not be open for the next two weeks and they will then review the situation.

I am sorry in advance for any inconvenience caused; I hope that we will be able to open to all children very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom  
Headteacher